

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

A new crunch may be coming on Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovaks are still struggling to come up with a mutually satisfactory mix of what they want and what the Soviets demand. There is as yet no convincing evidence that such a formula can be found. The communiqué issued after yesterday's presidium meeting looks both ways, suggesting that Prague will make the immediate policy changes demanded by Moscow regarding personnel, ideology, propaganda, censorship, and economic centralization, and yet emphasizing that many of Dubcek's liberal policies will be continued and that there will be no top-level party purge.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Deputy Premier Hamouz, who is leading a delegation to negotiate a treaty for the indefinite stationing of Soviet troops. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] President Svoboda, possibly engaged in one last effort to persuade Moscow to soften its demands on Prague or face a new political crisis.

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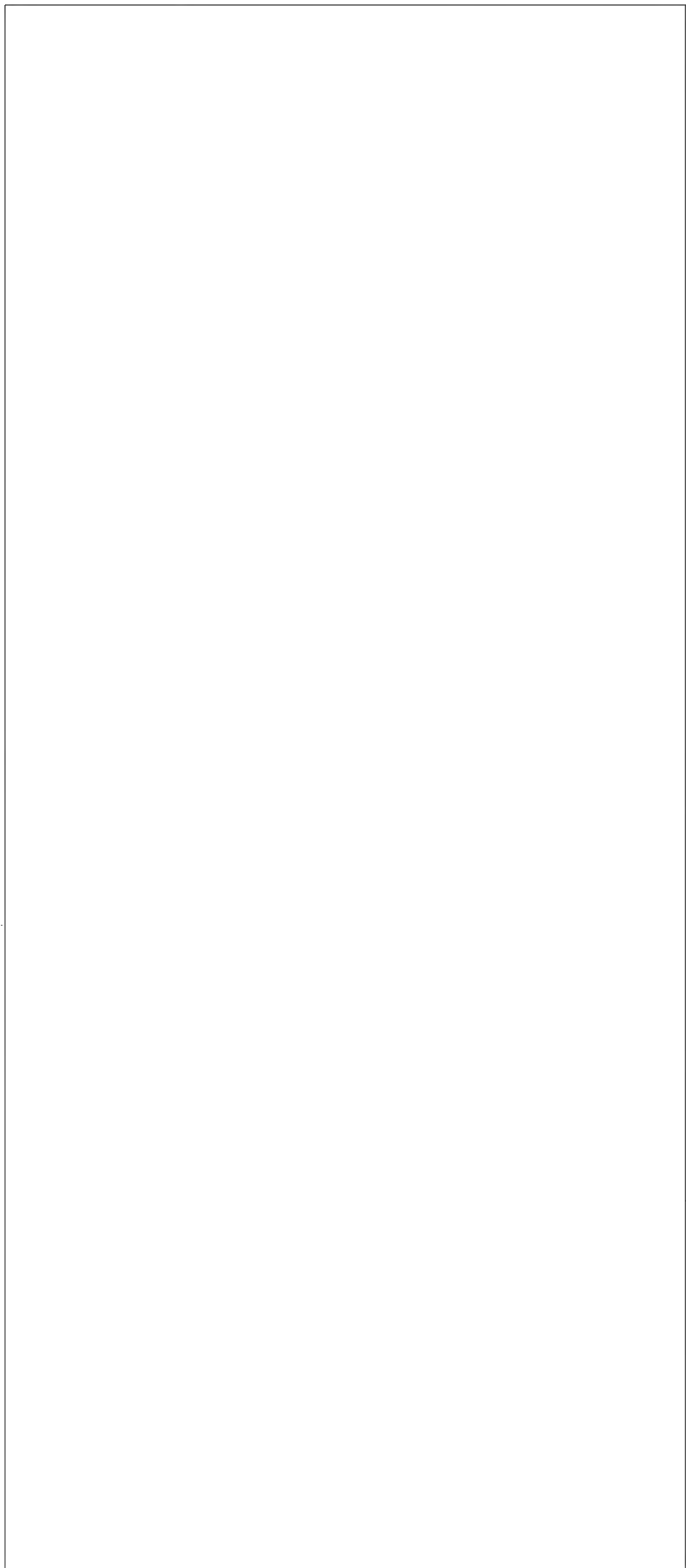
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2. South Vietnam

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3. Yugoslavia-Albania

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4. World Confederation of Labor

The International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, which claims 13 million workers--mostly Catholic--in its federated unions, has "de-confessionalized" itself to become the World Confederation of Labor. The move, under consideration for years, is designed to open the doors to the millions of Moslem, Buddhist, and other "third world" workers who would not enroll under a Christian banner. The organization will now be in a better position to challenge the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions--often regarded as dominated by the US--and to offer an alternative to the Communist-led World Federation of Trade Unions.

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5. NATO

There is growing interest in formalizing within NATO a bloc that could speak for Europe. Kiesinger appears to be more receptive to the notion of a European caucus in NATO since his recent frosty meeting with De Gaulle [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel will restate his own caucus proposal at the 21 October meeting of the Western European Union, which Harmel regards as the logical forum for European interests within NATO.

6. Italy

The Italian Government plans to include Communists in the new delegation it will soon appoint to the parliament of the European Communities. No other Community member includes Communists in its delegation, though all except West Germany have Communists in their legislatures. Prime Minister Leone, however, promised to make the Italian delegation more representative of the Rome parliament, which is about one-fourth Communist.

The few Communists who are expected to join the Italian group are not likely to be disruptive; their party is at pains to show that it can work with non-Communists. Leone's move could confirm the Italian party in its present position of relative autonomy within the international Communist movement, a status favorable to the party's domestic strength.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Support for Hanoi: The antiwar demonstration planned for London in late October is expected to be one of the largest on record. The organizer of the demonstration--a committee of left-wing and antiwar groups--expects to be able to muster some 100,000 people in London 27 October for a march from Charing Cross to Hyde Park.

The demonstrations in London are part of a world-wide effort to dramatize popular support for Hanoi throughout the Free World during a week of "solidarity with Vietnam." Hanoi will send official representatives to some of the more important meetings.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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